

BLOWN UP BY SPAIN

Every Evidence That the Maine Was Torpedoed.

CAPT. SIGSBEE'S STATEMENT

Two Hundred and Fifty American Sailors the Food of Sharks.

LIEUTS. JENKINS AND MERRITT DEAD

Havana, Feb. 16.—Spanish treachery has succeeded in destroying one of America's finest battleships, and in killing 253 sailors of the American Navy.

The Maine, which yesterday rode proudly in Havana harbor, is today a charred and ruined hulk, at the bottom of the sea.

There is little doubt but that the destructive force which is responsible for the awful disaster was a submarine torpedo exploded under the vessel's bow.

The magazine is further back under her coal bunkers. It did not explode, Capt. Sigsbee, although seriously injured, directed the work of rescue, and to his coolness and courage is due the fact that many of the wounded were snatched from the very jaws of death.

Too much cannot be said for the members of the crew who were not wounded. They responded to orders with a daring and alacrity that was astonishing under the circumstances.

Five minutes after the explosion the Albatross XII, the Spanish cruiser lying not far away, launched boats and hurried them to the sinking battleship. They picked up the wounded sailors and those who were swimming.

The wounded, as soon as they were brought ashore, were taken on stretchers to the Casa De Socorro, where all the physicians in Havana were summoned.

Among the least wounded was James Howe, ship's cook. He said:

"I turned in at 8 o'clock, and all was quiet. The next I knew I felt myself turning over and over and falling heavily upon the deck through a mass of smoke. I got on my feet and worked my way on deck. When I got there the superstructure deck was dipping under water, and I jumped overboard to keep from being drawn down in the suction."

"I was picked up by a boat from the Spanish man-of-war. Four more were picked up by the same boat. They were Daniel Cronin, a landsman; Charles Bryman, boatswain; Albert John, seaman, and Blount, a landsman."

"The whole bow was blown out of the ship. The last I saw, her bow was under and her stern sticking up."

"Her big magazine could not have exploded, or there would not have been enough left of her to make tophikes."

The explosion, which shook the city from one end to another, created the wildest excitement. All the electric lights were put out by the shock. Fire engines rushed from one direction to another, and no one knew for certain from which direction the explosion came.

Some started the report that it was the Havana arsenal, others said it was a shell, and it was not until 11 o'clock that the populace knew the explosion came from the Maine.

WAS NOT FROM THE INSIDE

The Bureau of Construction Officials Say the Theory Is Foolish.

The early announcement in The Times of the disaster in the Havana harbor created a tremendous excitement, and long before 9 o'clock, when the offices in the State, War and Navy Building were opened, a crowd of excited men were waiting to obtain admittance. Half an hour later the corridors of the large building were thronged with newspaper men, Senators, Representatives and prominent citizens, each asking the other for news from Havana.

All kinds of impressions prevailed, the general one being that the explosion of the Maine was caused by a submarine mine that had been exploded beneath the battleship with a force sufficient to explode the small magazine beneath the forward turret of the vessel.

This theory was discouraged as much as possible by officials, but not a single one of them would personally give for publication an opinion as to the cause of the terrible disaster.

Two theories as to the cause of the disaster were advanced by the public. Frank Tibbey & Company, Sixth street and New York avenue.

LATEST FROM SIGSBEE.

Communication From the Captain Shows a Death List of 253.

At 12:20 o'clock Secretary Long received this message from Captain Sigsbee: "Advise sending wrecking vessel at once. Maine submerged except debris. Mostly work for debris now. Jenkins and Merritt still missing. Little hope for their safety. Those known to be saved are officers, twenty-four uninjured crew, eighteen wounded now on board ward steamer, in city hospitals, and hotel, 29 so far as known. All others went down on board or near the Maine. Total lost or missing, 253. With few exceptions no officer nor man has more than a part of a suit of clothing and that is wet with harbor water. Ward steamer leaves for Mexico at 2 this afternoon. Officers saved are uninjured. Damage was in compartments of crew. Am preparing to telegraph list of wounded. Officer leaves for Key West at 1 o'clock p. m. Will send by her to Key West officers saved except myself and Wainwright. Holman, Keneberger, Kay and Holden. Will turn over three uninjured boats to captain of port, with request for safe keeping. Will send all wounded men to hospital in Havana."

"SIGSBEE" Mr. Long today sent a telegram to Captain Sigsbee, as follows:

"The President directs me to express for himself and the people of the United States their profound sympathy for the officers and the crew of the Maine, and he desires that no expense be spared in providing for the survivors and in the care of the dead."

Acting Secretary of War McKeljohn has not been officially consulted respecting the disaster to the Maine. Unless it is conclusively shown that the explosion was not an accident he will not be consulted.

SENOR QUESADA'S OPINION.

Says Havana Harbor Is Honeycombed With Torpedoes.

Senor Quesada, secretary of the Cuban legation here, said this morning: "I have heard nothing definite on the Maine explosion and do not want to talk in the air. It seems strange to me, however, that the explosion, if an accident, should have occurred at night when all were asleep, and if it were the powder magazines, how could it have happened."

"Do war ships usually blow up in that way?"

"Are not the magazines carefully guarded both day and night?"

"It would appear that something was wrong if this part of the vessel was not watched, and is it likely that it was not?"

"Perhaps Mr. de Lome will say that it is a celebration of his departure. I do not care to discuss the matter now, as it is a question for the American Government, but the great loss of life is most horrible."

"The whole bay is honey-combed with torpedoes, connected with the land by electric wires."

IT WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT.

Capt. Sumner Says the Explosion Could Not Be Accidental.

New York, Feb. 16.—Captain Sumner, who is in charge of the Brooklyn navy yard, said today:

"The Maine could not have been blown up by an explosion in her magazine. It is the rule of the Department to close the magazine at sundown, and it would not be possible for the combustibles stored there to have exploded accidentally."

"It was not an accident." Other officers at the navy yard here expressed a like opinion. The news of the disaster created consternation generally, and extras with accounts of the explosion were snapped up eagerly.

The general opinion was that if any Spaniard was to blame for the disaster war could no longer be averted.

"Sigsbee and most of his officers on board steamer City of Washington."

"Others on Spanish man-of-war and in city. Am with Sigsbee now, who has telegraphed the Navy Department."

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt said at 11 o'clock that nothing in addition to the early dispatches had been received at the Navy Department.

Cuban waters are infested with sharks and many were seen in the water this morning.

All possible efforts to find the bodies of victims before sharks can get them are being made.

FLEET MAY GO TO HAVANA.

A Rumor to That Effect Circulating in Key West.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 16.—Great excitement exists here over the Maine explosion at Havana. The torpedo boat Ericsson left here at midnight with secret orders for the fleet at Dry Tortugas. It is believed here that Admiral Sigsbee has been ordered to proceed to Havana with all of the vessels under his command, though no confirmation of the rumor can be obtained.

Another Message From Gen. Lee.

At 11:40 o'clock General Lee received from Consul General Lee the following cable dispatch:

"All quiet. Great sorrow expressed by authorities. Sigsbee has telegraphed details to Navy Department. Not prepared yet to report cause of explosion."

"LEE."

Way's Mufflers for the cold "man." \$1. At Auerbach's, 623 Pa. ave.

Maple Flooring, 4-4 and 5-4 of the finest quality and workmanship.

Coal! Coal! Coal!

\$5.25 per 2,240, delivered, Gayton stove, egg and nut. Poughkeepsie Coal Co., 1368 O st. n.w.; phone 620; or dealers generally.

The Weather.

Fair tonight; increasing cloudiness.



The Result of the "Friendly Call."

SENATORS SPEAK OUT.

The Loss of the Maine Not Due to Accident.

Senator Mills said it was passing strange how such an accident could occur from within the Maine itself. It would require further explanation, Mr. Mills said, to persuade him the disaster was due to negligence on board the ship.

Senator Perkins of California, an old sailor and a man thoroughly acquainted with the construction of battleships, seems at the idea that it was an accident. "There is," said he, "not one chance in a thousand that the Maine was blown up as the result of an accident. There has been treachery somewhere. It would have been impossible for such an injury to have come from an explosion within the ship at that hour."

"At night the magazines are always closed. There are no electrical connections with them. They are so arranged that concussion would have no effect upon them, and at that hour of the night, with the ship lying peacefully in the harbor, there was absolutely no reason why the magazine should have been touched by a soul on board."

"I know the ship and I know its commander. Every man of the crew was a monitor upon himself and no man can make me believe the Maine was not the victim of treachery."

"I cannot see how this awful thing came from within the ship herself," said Senator Thurston. "It is a serious matter, and I cannot help thinking the Maine went to the bottom as the result of an act on the part of those inimical to America."

"It may be cruel to even suspect that the destruction of the Maine came from the outside, but no other explanation seems to fit the case."

If the Maine took on board any coal at Havana there might be a possible explanation to the accident. The Ward line of steamers, plying between Havana and New York, has been the victim of numerous mysterious fires and explosions, and in almost every case investigation showed that they came from explosives mixed with the coal that had been taken on at Havana.

It is doubtful, however, if this would have been done in this case, even had the Maine coaled in that port. It is understood that the ship has not been compelled to replenish her fuel since leaving Key West.

THE NEWS AT THE JUNTA.

Many Cubans Believe the Explosion Was the Work of Spain.

New York, Feb. 16.—Great interest was felt at the Cuban junta today in the disaster to the Maine. Most of the Cuban patriots did not hesitate to say that they thought that the whole affair was the result of Spanish treachery.

Some of the more conservative, however, were inclined to believe that if the explosion was not the result of an accident it was merely the work of some Spanish fanatic.

NO MAGAZINE FORWARD.

Lieut. Commander Marx Makes a Statement.

Lieutenant Commander Adolph Marx, who was relieved as executive officer by Lieutenant Commander Wainwright, said today to a Times reporter that there is no magazine in use on the Maine forward of the forecast.

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The Weather.

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Will be sent to Key West.

Wounded Sailors Will Leave Havana at Once.

Surgeon General Van Reypen, of Key West, telegraphed the Navy Department today, as follows:

"By approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, all the wounded men of the Maine will be received at the Marine Hospital at Key West."

In reply to that a declaration that I love America as I do no country save my own."

Dispatches to Be Made Public.

At 12 o'clock Secretary Long made the announcement that the President has directed that every dispatch received by the State or Navy Departments be given out without reserve, all day. He stated that the public will receive all the information that the Government does.

No Matter What Prices Are Given, You come right here. Our prices are lowest.

WANT HAVANA BOMBARDED.

Naval Officers Say Secretary Long Is Overcautious.

The deliberate conclusion reached at noon today by the most eminent naval officers on duty at the Department, considering the facts so far received regarding the Maine, is almost unanimous that she was destroyed by a military mine operated from shore in a casement of a Spanish fortification. A prominent naval officer said:

"No mere accident could have caused such total annihilation. Spain is responsible for the Maine's destruction. The inference is irresistible by the simple law of chance, if by nothing else."

"No warship in history has been so completely shattered by an accident. It was dabbled done. Fifty of our ships are continually entering friendly harbors. The Maine alone entered an unfriendly one. She had overstayed her welcome in Havana."

"The over-cautious statements of Secretary Long are to gain time for facing the dreadful emergency, but naval officers will demand speedy reparation. They insist that the President shall send Sigsbee's fleet to make a demonstration off Havana and bombard the pest hole on the slightest provocation. They insist that the time for patiently awaiting disclosures which do not come is long past, and that now is the time for action before another ship is lost."

AWAIT OFFICIAL NEWS.

Republican Representatives Say Investigation Is Being Made.

The exciting news from Havana was discussed with keen interest by the members of the House this morning. All of them were loaded with the extras, among which figured very conspicuously the 10:45 a. m. extra of The Times.

The disposition on both sides of the chamber was to express no opinion. Mr. De Armond said that while the whole country was shocked by the news, it was impossible at this time to make any definite statement. He preferred to wait on official news.

Mr. Maguire was of the same opinion. He was surrounded by many members, and said that it would be time enough to act when the cause of the accident had been ascertained with reasonable accuracy. This, in fact, was the view of all the members of the House who were asked for an expression of opinion.

On the Republican side it was professed that the matter is being thoroughly investigated by the State and Navy Departments.

The galleries began to fill soon after the convening of the House.

DE LOME GETS THE NEWS.

Hypercritically Deplores It and Professes Love for America.

New York, Feb. 16.—Dupuy de Lome was pale with anxiety when the news of the explosion was brought to him.

"This is dreadful, awful," he said. "I pray God it is some mistake. No Spaniard did this. Spaniards desire peace. There will be no war. There can be no war. This appalling disaster forces me to a declaration that I love America as I do no country save my own."

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THE WHITE HOUSE QUIET.

Nothing There to Show That Disaster Had Occurred.

Up to 11 a. m. there was nothing at the White House to indicate that anything extraordinary had happened.

Representatives Governor and Cannon were the first members of Congress to call. Mr. Cannon was asked if it were not likely that the House of Representatives would take cognizance of the exciting event. He said: "No."

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EFFECT ON SPAIN.

The Disaster Reacts in Favor of the Navy of That Country.

One of the naval bureau chiefs said this morning:

"Whatever the cause of the disaster to the Maine the important fact looms up most prominently that America has lost one of her finest battleships, and if any balance of naval power existed between the United States and Spain it has disappeared to Spain's gain. The Iowa, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Texas are now our only battleships in the Atlantic. The Brooklyn and New York are the only armored cruisers. Our other ships are simply commerce destroyers, not built for standup fights. Whether Spain was even remotely responsible for this or not she is the great gainer."

"The Maine is the first ship of the new American Navy to go. She is the first ironclad in the world to be totally destroyed by explosives. Accidents of less disastrous character have occurred in European warships, but no magazine of an ironclad has ever been annihilated."

THE VIZCAYA EXPECTED.

New York at the Mercy of the Big Spanish Cruiser.

New York, Feb. 16.—The Spanish armored cruiser Vizcaya is due at this port today and naval men say the city will practically be at her mercy in the event of sudden hostilities with Spain.

No warship that could cope with her is within 300 miles of New York harbor. It is rumored in naval circles, however, that the cruiser Brooklyn will meet her at sea and escort her to port. If this be true the wisdom of such a proceeding is now apparent.

A STARTLING CABLEGRAM.

Secretary Long the Recipient of a Significant Message.

An unsigned cablegram from Havana was received by the Secretary of the Navy this morning, which stated that the explosion took place forward of the magazine.

If this be true it is very significant according to the officials of the department.

SENOR DE ROSC'S THEORY.

He Tells Naval Officials That a Donkey Engine Exploded.

Senor Du Rosc was an early arrival at the State Department this morning. He saw Judge Day, and informed him that he had received a dispatch from Havana which said in effect that the disaster to the Maine was due to the explosion of the boiler connected with the donkey engine, which runs the dynamo. This boiler was forward of the magazine of the Maine.

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Ruinous Competition

is an expression you often hear used. We welcome competition. It only serves to show how far lower our prices are than anyone else can quote. Take this Chiffonier as an instance:



This Beautiful Oak Chiffonier with French plate mirror, large drawers, worth \$110.00.

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